

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 27, and 29 are in independent form. New Claims 25-30 have been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1, 9, 10, and 17 have been amended to define Applicant's invention still more clearly. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action states that Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,473,783 to Goshey et al.

Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 27, and 29, together with the claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus for managing a network system provided with a plurality of information processing apparatuses to each of which is connected a plurality of shared devices that can be used by another information processing apparatus through the network system. The apparatus includes management means, reception means, transmission means, recognition means, and renewal means. The management means manages the information of the plurality of shared devices present in the network system. The reception means receives the information of the plurality of shared devices connected to another information processing apparatus, the received information including information of resources in the plurality of shared devices. The transmission means transmits the information of a shared device connected to the information processing apparatus to another information processing apparatus on the network system. The recognition means recognizes which one of the plurality of shared

devices has been updated in its resources, in accordance with the information received by the reception means. The renewal means changes information on a status or a connected condition of the shared device displayed on a display of the information processing apparatus in accordance with a recognition result made by the recognition means. The renewal means changes the information on the status of the shared device such that the one shared device that has been updated in its resources may be displayed on the display distinguishable from the other shared devices.

Among other notable features of Claim 1 is that a plurality of shared devices are connected to each of a plurality of information processing apparatuses. Further, recognition means recognizes which one of the plurality of shared devices has been updated in its resources (see, e.g., S339 of Fig. 12). Moreover, renewal means changes the information on the status of the shared device such that the one shared device that has been updated in its resources may be displayed on a display distinguished from the other shared devices (see, e.g., Fig. 9).¹

Goshey et al., as understood by Applicant, relates to a system for sharing peripheral devices over a network. The system includes a first computer having at least one peripheral device, and a second computer that is networked to the first computer. The second computer is configured to send a request to use the at least one peripheral device over the network, and the request is processed to determine whether the second computer has sharing privileges to use the at least one peripheral device. The first computer is configured to grant access to the request of the second computer if the second computer has

¹ It is of course to be understood that the references to various portions of the present application are by way of illustration and example only, and that the claims are not limited by the details shown in the portions referred to.

the sharing privileges that enable access to the at least one peripheral device. The first computer acts as a server that can share its peripheral devices, and the second computer acts as a client that accesses the server's peripheral devices.

Goshey et al. discusses obtaining information shown in Table B of column 8 (cited in the Office Action) and displaying the information. Goshey et al., however, fails to teach or suggest allowing an information processing apparatus to display the change in resources of a plurality of shared devices.

Indeed, Applicant has found nothing in Goshey et al. that would teach or suggest recognizing which one of the plurality of shared devices has been updated in its resources, and changing the information on the status of the shared device such that the one shared device that has been updated in its resources may be displayed on the display distinguishable from the other shared devices, as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Goshey et al., and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Independent Claims 9 and 17 are method and computer readable memory claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable over Goshey et al. for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1. Additionally, independent Claims 25, 27, and 29 each recite, in part, recognizing which one of a plurality of devices has been updated in its resources, and displaying, in accordance with a recognition result, information such that the one device that has been updated in its resources may be displayed on a display distinguishable from the other devices. Claims 25, 27, and 29 also are believed to be patentable over Goshey et al. because that reference is not seen to teach or suggest these features.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

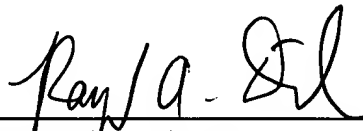
This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

No petition to extend the time for response to the Office Action is deemed necessary for the present Amendment. If, however, such a petition is required to make this Amendment timely filed, then this paper should be considered such a petition and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite petition fee to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office
by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our
address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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